

Samuel Whitehorne House  
414 Thames Street  
Newport  
Newport County  
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-323

HABS  
RI,  
3-NEWP,  
50-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## SAMUEL WHITEHORNE HOUSE

HABS  
RI,  
3-NEWP,  
50-

Location: 414 Thames Street.

Present Owner: Newport Restoration Foundation

Present Occupants: None, under restoration.

Present Use: None. The house is intended to house a furniture museum.

Statement of  
Significance:

This house built in 1810-1811, was the residence of Samuel Whitehorne, a prosperous Newport merchant in partnership with his brother, John, until they went bankrupt in 1843. It is a fine example of the large merchant houses built in the 18th and 19th centuries on Thames Street facing the owners' commercial properties on the waterfront.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

The building is located in Plat 32, Lot 12. The following is an incomplete chain of title from Newport City Clerk's Records for the city of Newport. Reference is to number and volume of the Land Evidence Books, (LEB.--, p.--).

1786 Deed of January 25, 1786, recorded in LEB. 3, pp. 276-78.

From: Abraham Redwood, Jr.  
To: Francis Malbone  
For: 150 pounds

"...two parcels of land... each of which contains about 3/4 of an acre... the 2nd lot is bounded Southerly partly on a street, or highway and partly on land of the estate of Thomas Coggeshall, deceased, Westerly partly on the said Thomas Coggeshall's land, partly on James Carpenter's land, and partly on Thames Street, Easterly on land of William Gyles, and Northerly on land of John Malbone, son of Evan, in which said last lot or parcel of land stands Gyles House..."

1803 Deed of October 8. 1803, recorded in LEB. 9, pp.173-74.

From: Francis Malbone  
To: Jabez Denison  
For:\$800

"... one piece of land... beginning on the Southeast corner John Price, Jr. lot, on a street or highway, thence running East, bounded South on said street to land of Henry Clannen, thence Northerly, bounded Easterly on said Clannens land, land of William Gyles, late deceased, and land of John Langley, to land of the estate of Robert N. Auchmuty crossing a Road reserved running East and West between the land of said Gyles and Langley, hence Westerly, bounded North by said Auchmuty's land to James Robinson's lot on which his oil works stand, thence Southerly, bounded Westerly by said Thames Street to James Boone's lot, thence Easterly bounded West, by said Boone's lot, and said Price's lot to the first mentioned bounds, with all rights, title and interest to the road reserved between the lands of said William Gyles, John Langley, James Robinson and James Carpenter, deceased..."

[Jabez Denison was later to subdivide this property into three parcels]

1804 Deed of April 14, 1804, recorded in LEB. 9, p.174.

From: Jabez Denison  
To: John Denison  
For: \$150

"...a certain lot of land... part of land purchased of Francis Malbone and is bounded...: Beginning at the Southeast corner of James Robinson's lot on which his oil works stand on the north side of a road, thence running North, bounded West by said Robinson's lot, 40 feet to land last belonging to Robert N. Auchmuty, thence East, bounded North, by said Auchmuty's land about 63 feet, to land of John Langley, thence South bounded East by said Langley's land about 43 feet to said Road, and thence West on the North side of said road about 63 feet to the first mentioned bound..."

1810 Deed of March 15, 1810, recorded in LEB. 11, p.309.

From: Jabez Denison  
To: Samuel Whitehorne

For: \$1000

"... one certain lot of land... bounded Westerly sixty nine and a half feet on Thames Street, Northerly two hundred and thirty four feet on Denison Street, Easterly seventy two feet on land of Benjamin Love, deceased, and William C. Green, and Southerly two hundred and thirty four feet, partly on land of the grantor and partly on the land of James Boon..."

1843 Deed of March 18, 1843, recorded in LEB. 24, pp. 205-08.

On March 18, 1843, Whitehorne declared bankruptcy, assigning property to Robert P. Lee, March 27, 1843.

1844 Newport Mercury, Vol. LXXXIII, No. 4305, October 26, 1844.

"... to originally have taken place October 19, for entry at that notice of auction on same day, time at 11 o'clock a.m..."

selling: "All right, title and interest which Samuel Whitehorne, late of Newport, deceased, had on the 18th, day of March, 1843, and a certain brick dwelling house, and lot of land, at the corner of Thames and Denison Streets, 69 1/2 feet by 234 feet."

1844 Deed of October 30, 1844, recorded in LEB. 25, pp. 132-33.

From: John G. Whitehorne and Samuel Whitehorne  
(due to business losses)

To: Assigned to Robert P. Lee, lot with house, mortgaged to pay a note of \$1600 to Lee

"sold at public auction to Jesse Chace, dwelling house with appurtenances thereunto belonging on October 26, 1844, paid \$550."

1845 Deed of January 10, 1845, recorded in LEB. 25, p. 200.

From: Elizabeth Whitehorne

To: Jesse Chace

For: Release of Dower

1847 Deed of April 23, 1847, recorded in LEB. 26, p. 474.

From: Jesse Chace

To: John D. Williams

For: \$2500

Lot with house and other buildings

Note: Conveyed to J. Chace by Robert P. Lee, assignee

- 1856 Deed of December 8, 1856, recorded in LEB. 33, pp. 555-56.  
From: John D. Williams  
To: Mary Williams  
For: \$4678  
  
Lot with dwelling house and other buildings.
- 1857 Deed of October 10, 1857, recorded in LEB. 33, pp. 764-65.  
  
From: Mary Williams  
To: Job B. Wilbour  
For: \$3600
- 1864 Deed of April 8, 1864, recorded in LEB. 37, pp. 433-34.  
  
From: Job B. Wilbour  
To: Sumner M. Stewart  
For \$7000
- 1864 April 8, 1864, Survey done by William Dame; area-11,087 square feet.
- 1878 Deed of March 16, 1878, recorded in LEB. 49, p. 405.  
  
From: Sumner M. Stewart  
To: Robert J. Carry
- 1878 Deed of March 16, 1878, recorded in LEB. 49, pp. 405-06.  
  
From: Robert J. Carey  
To: Harriet K. Stewart, wife of Sumner
- 1878 Deed of May 4, 1878, recorded in LEB. 49, p. 424.  
  
From: Sumner M. & Harriet K. Stewart  
To: Thomas Gash
- 1878 Deed of May 4, 1878, recorded in LEB. 49, p. 425.  
  
From: Thomas Gash  
To: Sumner M. & Harriet K. Stewart
- 1893 Deed in LEB. 5, p. 197.  
  
From: Sumner M. Stewart  
To: Lucy H. & Harriet K. Stewart by will  
Date of death: November 20, 1893

- 1922 Deed of June 24, 1922, recorded in LEB. 112, pp. 517-18.  
  
From: Lucy H. and Harriet K. Stewart  
To: George A. and Marguerite Tabor  
For: \$10 +
- 1937 Deed of August 14, 1937, recorded in LEB. 139, p. 11B.  
  
From: Public Sale (G.A. Tabor)  
To: Aquidneck National Bank of Newport  
For: \$B000
- 1938 Deed of July 13, 193B, recorded in LEB. 141, p. 236.  
  
From: Aquidneck National Bank of Newport  
To: Max and Celia Gillson  
For: \$10 +
- 1941 From: Estate of Max Gillson  
To: Samuel Gillson, for life, then to children of Samuel Gillson equally, only son Brian Gillson, by will.
- 1968 Deed of December 19, 196B, recorded in LEB. 225, pp. 173-74.  
  
From: Beatrice A. Gillson, guardian for Brian Gillson  
To: Newport Restoration Foundation  
For: \$33,500
2. Date of erection: 1810-1811
3. Architect: Unknown
4. Builder, contractor, or suppliers: Unknown
5. Original plans: None known
6. Alterations and additions: In the mid 19th century, the two front rooms were altered to serve as store fronts, lowering the floor to grade level and carrying the front wall out to the sidewalk line. These store fronts were removed and the original wall line and floor levels were restored in 1969. The roof cupola was added about the same time. The interior of the house deteriorated as a slum apartment building during the mid 20th century, but light partitioning added for this purpose has been removed, and the basic fabric of the house is largely intact. Other major alterations include the removal of fireplaces on the first

floor (except in the kitchen) and the relocation of the stairway. Sufficient evidence remains for authentic restoration of the stairway and central hall, as well as for many small details on the interior. The original entrance was altered by the addition of the storefronts. Growing evidence suggests the restoration of a semi-circular entrance porch.

7. Important old views: The Newport Restoration Foundation has collected several views of the Thames Street facade. These views date c. 1875, or later, and show the house with the attached store fronts on the facade.
8. Historical documentation:
  - a. Tax Records and other information:
    - 1793 October 31, 1793 - tax assessment  
Samuel Whitehorne (1744-1796)  
valued at 100 L's; taxed L\_,2,4.
    - 1794 July 12, 1794 - deed transaction  
Samuel Whitehorne purchases from Henry Hunter for 1050 L's a dwelling house and lot of land and a distill house with all appropriate equipment.  
LEB. 5, p. 271.
    - 1795 September 22, 1795 - tax assessment  
Samuel Whitehorne (1744-1796)  
valued at 1200 L's; taxed L's 2,10,0.
    - 1796 April 5, 1796 - Obituary  
Newport Mercury (April 5, 1796)  
"On Friday last, after a long and severe illness, in the 52nd year of his age."
    - 1796 September, 1796 - state tax assessment  
Samuel Whitehorne Estate  
valued \$3000.00; taxed \$4.20.
    - 1797 May 15, 1797 - town tax assessment  
Samuel Whitehorne Estate  
valued \$3000.00; taxed \$4.50.
    - 1798 June 1798 - tax assessment  
Samuel Whitehorne Estate  
valued \$3000.00; taxed \$4.50.
    - 1799 January 5, 1799 - watch tax assessment  
Samuel Whitehorne Estate  
valued \$3000.00; taxed \$4.50.

- 1799 June 4, 1799 - tax assessment  
Samuel Whitehorne Estate  
valued \$3000.00; taxed \$3.30.
- 1799 December 12, 1799 - watch tax assessment  
John G. Whitehorne (1772-1855)  
valued \$3000.00; taxed \$4.50.
- 1800 June, 1800 - town tax assessment  
John G. Whitehorne  
valued \$3000.00; taxed \$9.00.
- 1801 January 9, 1801 - watch tax assessment  
John G. Whitehorne  
valued \$3000.00; taxed \$2.10.
- 1801 May 14, 1801 - poor tax assessment  
John G. Whitehorne  
valued \$3000.00; taxed \$6.30.
- 1802 March 29, 1802 - rental agreement  
Samuel Whitehorne (1779-1844) agrees to rent from  
Ann Rathbone "one certain dwelling house, store and  
small garden... for and during the term of five years  
next ensuing the thirteenth day of May next for...  
the sum of \$110.00 yearly and every year during said  
term to be paid in quarterly payments as they come  
due."
- 1803 July 12, 1803 - tax assessment  
John G. Whitehorne  
valued \$4000.00; taxed \$10.00.
- 1803 July 12, 1803 - tax assessment  
Samuel Whitehorne  
valued \$1000.00; taxed \$2.50.  
for house late Rathbone  
valued \$1000.00; taxed \$2.50.
- 1804 December 29, 1804 - tax assessment  
John G. Whitehorne  
valued \$5000.00; taxed \$3.50.
- 1804 December 29, 1804 - tax assessment  
Samuel Whitehorne  
valued \$1000.00; taxed \$.70.  
for house late Rathbone  
valued \$1000.00; taxed \$.70.



- 1805 April 13, 1805 - tax assessment  
John G. and Samuel Whitehorne  
valued \$6000.00; taxed \$5.46.
- 1805 April 13, 1805 - tax assessment  
Samuel Whitehorne  
valued \$1000.00; taxed \$.90.  
"for house late Rathbone"
- 1806 August 29, 1806  
John G. and Samuel Whitehorne  
valued \$6000.00; taxed \$23.40.
- John G. Whitehorne  
valued \$1000.00; taxed \$3.90.
- Samuel Whitehorne  
valued \$1000.00; taxed \$3.90  
"for R House"
- 1809 April 15, 1809 - rental agreement  
Newport Mercury, April 15, 1809  
"To let, and possession given the 10th of May next.  
The dwelling house now occupied by Samuel Whitehorne-  
for terms apply to him.  
Ann Rathbone  
(Whitehorne was renting the Ann Rathbone House, 19 Spring  
Street.)
- 1809 August 5, 1809 - tax assessment  
John G. and Samuel Whitehorne  
valued \$8000.00; taxed \$33.60.
- Samuel Whitehorne  
valued \$1000.00; taxed \$5.04.  
"for R House"
- 1810 August 25, 1810 - tax assessment  
John G. Whitehorne  
P[Personal] \$8000.00  
House \$1500.00  
Distillery \$4000.00  
\$13500.00 taxed \$54.00.
- 1810 August 25, 1810 - tax assessment  
Samuel Whitehorne  
P[Personal] \$5000.00  
H[House] he occupies \$1200.00  
\$6200.00 taxed \$24.80.

- 1811 January 28, 1811 - state tax assessment  
John G. Whitehorne  
P \$8000.00; H \$1500.00; Distillery \$4000.00=\$13,500.00  
taxed \$24.30  
  
Samuel Whitehorne  
P \$5000.00; H \$1000.00; he holds \$1200.00=\$7200.00  
taxed \$12.96
- 1811 September 11, 1811 - tax assessment  
John G. Whitehorne  
P \$8000.00; H \$1200.00; Distillery \$4000.00=\$13,500.00  
taxed \$54.00  
  
Samuel Whitehorne  
P \$5000.00; H \$3000.00=\$8000.00  
taxed \$32.00  
[Increase in real estate assessment would seem to  
indicate that he had taken up residence at 414 Thames  
Street.]
- 1810 April 16, 1810 - letter  
From: Samuel Whitehorne  
To: John G. Ladd, Merchant, Alexandria, Virginia  
  
"Sir: I am in want of some red cedar for window frames  
for a house I intend building this summer, but cannot  
procure it in our neighboring states, but am informed  
it is plenty with you.  
... sixteen sticks each nine feet long and 10 by 10  
inches square..."  
  
Letter is now in possession of Lt. Gen. (ret.) William  
Ennis, direct descendant of Samuel Whitehorne.
- 1812 October 10, 1812 - tax assessment  
John G. Whitehorne  
P \$8000.00; H \$1500.00; Distillery \$4000.00=\$13,500.00  
taxed \$13.00
- 1812 October 12, 1812 - tax assessment  
Samuel Whitehorne  
P \$5000.00; R \$3000.00=\$8000.00  
taxed \$8.00
- 1818 July 11, 1818 - tax assessment  
John G. Whitehorne  
P \$9000.00; H \$1600.00; R \$1000.00; Distillery House  
\$6000.00; two lots land \$400.00=\$18,000.00  
taxed \$10.20

Samuel Whitehorne  
P \$5500.00; R \$3000.00=\$8500.00  
taxed \$5.10

1819 July 12, 1819 - tax assessment  
Samuel Whitehorne  
P \$3000.00; R \$3000.00  
taxed \$34.80

b. Tax assessments:

Samuel Whitehorne:

1821	- P	\$3000.00	R	\$3000.00
1822	- P	\$3000.00	R	\$3000.00
1824	- P	\$4000.00	R	\$2500.00
1825	- P	\$3000.00	R	\$2500.00
1829	- P	\$2500.00	R	\$3500.00
1830	- P	\$2500.00	R	\$3500.00
1831	- P	\$2500.00	R	\$3500.00
1832	- P	\$4000.00	R	\$3500.00
1833	- P	\$4000.00	R	\$4000.00
1835	- P	\$3000.00	R	\$3000.00
1836	- P	\$3500.00	R	\$4000.00
1837	- P	\$3500.00	R	\$4000.00
1838	- P	\$3000.00	R	\$4000.00
1839	- P	\$3000.00	R	\$4000.00
1840	- P	\$3000.00	R	\$4000.00
1841	- P	\$2000.00	R	\$4000.00
1842	- P	\$1000.00	R	\$4000.00
1843	- P	-0-	R	-0-

John G. Whitehorne:

1821	- P	\$7000.00	R	\$8000.00
1822	- P	\$7000.00	R	\$8000.00
1824	- P	\$8000.00	R	\$7000.00
1825	- P	\$8000.00	R	\$6000.00
1829	- P	\$8000.00	R	\$5000.00
1830	- P	\$8000.00	R	\$5000.00
1831	- P	\$8000.00	R	\$5000.00
1832	- P	\$8000.00	R	\$8000.00
1833	- P	\$8000.00	R	\$8000.00
1835	- P	\$10,000.00	R	\$5000.00
1836	- P	\$10,000.00	R	\$6000.00
1837	- P	\$10,000.00	R	\$6000.00
1838	- P	\$10,000.00	R	\$6000.00
1839	- P	\$11,000.00	R	\$6000.00
1840	- P	\$10,000.00	R	\$6000.00
1841	- P	\$8000.00	R	\$6000.00
1842	- P	\$4000.00	R	\$6000.00
1843	- P	-0-	R	-0-

c. Insurance Policies: Providence Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

Samuel Whitehorne  
Policy Record Book 3, no. 2937  
June 1, 1825  
brick house on east side of Thames Street  
44' square  
stories high - 3  
occupied as a dwelling house  
\$4000.00 at 7 1/2%

John G. Whitehorne  
Policy Record Book 3, no. 2936  
June 1, 1825  
wood dwelling house on the east side of Thames Street  
40' in front  
37' deep  
11' x 22' addition  
2 stories in front and rear  
occupied as a dwelling house  
\$2500.00 at 8%

Note: both policies renewed in 1832.

Samuel Whitehorne  
Policy Record Book 19, no. 8167  
January 6, 1840  
brick house on east side of Thames Street  
44' square  
stories high-3  
occupied as a dwelling house  
\$4000.00 at 7 1/2%  
"N.B. under \$1500 incumbrance."  
on back of policy - March 18, 1843 signed over policy to  
Robert P. Lee; November 2, 1843 Robert P. Lee signed  
policy over to Capt. Jesse Chace.

John G. Whitehorne  
Policy Record Book 19, no. 8166  
January 6, 1840  
same as previous policy  
on back of policy - March 18, 1843 signed over policy to  
Robert P. Lee; July 6, 1843 Robert P. Lee signed  
policy over to Henry Brewerton; April 15, 1845 Henry  
Brewerton signed policy over to Mary Williams.

d. Bank Schedule:

From: John G. and Samuel Whitehorne  
To: Robert P. Lee

For: Indenture

Recorded: March 18, 1843, in LEB. 24, pp. 205-09.

"... by reason of numerous and heavy losses and misfortunes resulting from their commercial operations, are unable to pay promptly, and in full, the debts they owe, and are desirous of so disposing of their property that sacrifices may be avoided, and it may be rendered most productive to their creditors... do hereby give, grant, sell, assign and transfer, to the said Robert P. Lee... the property, estate and effects of the said John G. Whitehorne and Samuel Whitehorne as follows, to wit, -A lot of land in said Newport, with a dwelling house thereon, bounded and measuring Northerly on Denison Street, two hundred and thirty four feet, Easterly on land of John Barker seventy two feet, Southerly partly on land of heirs of James Boon, deceased, and partly on land of the heirs of Charles Burdick, deceased, two hundred and thirty four feet, and Westerly on Thames Street, sixty nine and a half feet,..., being the estate now owned and occupied by the said Samuel Whitehorne, and on which there is no other incumbrance than a mortgage to the Merchants Bank of Newport, to secure payment of a note for sixteen hundred dollars, dated the twenty eighth day of February last, endorsed by John G. Whitehorne and Samuel Whitehorne, and given in renewal of former notes; -Also a lot of land in said Newport, with a dwelling house and other buildings thereon, now owned and occupied by the said John G. Whitehorne, and bounded and measuring, Northerly on Young Street, one hundred and ninety feet, Easterly on land of the heirs of Benjamin James, deceased, eighty feet, Southerly partly on land of Caroline Brewerton, and partly on land of John G. Whitehorne one hundred and ninety feet and Westerly on Thames Street, eighty seven feet... together with a lot of land twenty feet square, one hundred feet east of Spring Street, and bounded Northerly on Bowery Street, containing a fountain or reservoir of water, the said John G. Whitehorne excepting and reserving... the right to use the water; -Also a lot of land in said Newport belonging to the said John G. Whitehorne, bounded and measuring as follows; Northerly on land of the above described, and occupied by the said John G. Whitehorne, one hundred and thirty feet, Easterly on land of Caroline Brewerton seventy eight feet, Southerly on Howard Street, one hundred and thirty feet, and Westerly on Thames Street seventy three feet... Also three undivided fourth parts of the Barque

Merchant of Newport, now at sea or in foreign ports...-  
Also four undivided shares in the Newport Iron Foundry  
and Machine Shop. -Also ten shares in the capital stock  
of the Merchants Bank, in said Newport, but not the  
dividends that may be due in April next thereon, said  
shares standing in the name of the said Samuel Whitehorne  
on the books of said Bank, and being subject to a claim  
of said Bank for nine hundred dollars. -Also two pews in  
the middle aisle of Zion Church... The said assignee shall  
as soon as he may deem advisable for the interest of all  
concerned, sell and dispose of all and singular the  
property hereby conveyed at public or private sale, for  
the best prices that can be procured;... Robert P. Lee  
their attorney irrevocable..."

SCHEDULE A

Exhibiting the property assigned by John G. and Samuel  
Whitehorne to Robert P. Lee:  
The lot of land and dwelling house thereon, owned and  
occupied by Samuel Whitehorne. cost \$10,000  
The lot of land and building thereon, owned and occupied  
by John G. Whitehorne. \$5,000  
One lot of land adjoining south of the lot last above  
mentioned belonging to John G. Whitehorne. \$1,200  
Three fourths of the Barque Merchant, which cost John  
G. Whitehorne and Samuel Whitehorne. \$14,000  
Four shares in the Newport Iron Foundry and Machine  
Shop. cost \$1,200  
Ten shares in the Merchants Bank in Newport pledged to  
said bank for \$900 on which may be realized sa \$100  
Two pews in the middle aisle of Zion Church, Nos. 98  
and 101. cost \$500  
\$32,000

SCHEDULE B

Claims against John G. and Samuel Whitehorne which are  
preferred to be paid first.  
A note to Elizabeth Read dated February 13, 1843 on  
demand \$450  
A note to Susan Fryers dated February 16, 1843 on  
demand \$500  
A note at the Merchants Bank in Newport dated January 31,  
1843 at 60 days and endorsed by Robinson Potter for  
\$2800  
A note at said Bank dated January 3, 1843 at 90 days  
endorsed by Samuel Allen \$800  
A note at said Bank dated January 3, 1843 at 90 days

endorsed by Stephan Northam	\$1000
A note at Newport Bank dated February 22, 1843 at 60 days endorsed by Robinson Potter	\$1000
A note at Rhode Island Union Bank dated Feb. 1, 1843 at 60 days endorsed by Robinson Potter	\$800
A note at last mentioned Bank dated March 13, 1843 at 30 days endorsed by Charles Devens	\$750
A note at the Bank of Rhode Island dated March 7, 1843 at 30 days endorsed by Robinson Potter	\$2000
A note to Samuel Allen dated January 19, 1843 at 60 days	\$250
A note to Henry Brewerton dated January 18, 1843 on demand	\$500
Town taxes assessed on the property of John G. and Samuel Whitehorne in 1843.	

SCHEDULE C

Claims against John G. and Samuel Whitehorne to be paid after the payment of the preferred debts in whole or in part according to the amount of the Trust fund remaining.

A note dated January 12, 1843, given by S. Whitehorne to James Hammond at 90 days	\$49.07
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A note dated New York Sept. 17, 1842, to James McCaul and Co., six months	\$4250.00
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A note dated New York November 16, 1842 to Josiah Macy and Son, six months	\$1167.65
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Deduct Charles Devens note to us for 1/4	-291.91
	<u>\$875.74</u>

A note dated New York November 18, 1842 to Henry J. Ingalls, 4 months	\$1965.64
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A note dated New York January 18, 1843 to Moses Taylor for 60 days	\$989.89
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A note dated New York December 1, 1842 to H.N. Peck & Co., 6 months	\$600.62
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A note dated New York February 5, 1843 to the New York Insurance Co., 3 months	\$148.75
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A note dated New York February 5, 1843 to the American Insurance Co., 3 months	\$148.75
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\$297.50

Deduct return premium to be made agreeable to the policies	- 42.50
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\$255.00

Deduct Charles Devens note to us for 1/4	- 63.75
	<u>\$191.25</u>

Amount due to Charles Devens for 10 months rent of store to 29 March 1842	\$25.00
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e. Newspaper Entries from Newport Mercury:

- 1835 Saturday, June 27, 1835  
For Sale: The large three-story house, now occupied by the suscriber, at the south part of Thames Street, with a variety of fruit trees, grapes, etc., an excellent well of water, and a rain water cistern in the garden.  
The whole lot is 230' by 70'. This estate is admirably adapted for a Boarding-House, or for a large family, is in good repair, and situated in a pleasant and retired part of town. The premises can be viewed at any time, and the terms made known by applying to  
S. Whitehorn.
- 1843 Saturday, May 13, 1843  
Auction: The large 3 story brick dwelling house, situated at corner of Thames and Denison Streets, well known as the residence of Samuel Whitehorn, the loft measures 69 1/2' on Thames by 237' on Denison.  
The particulars and terms will be made known at the time and place of sale.  
R.P. Lee, assignee  
J.C. Shaw, auctioner
- 1844 March 2, 1844  
Same ad run again in Newport Mercury. Structure still described as a dwelling house. This ad appeared weekly until 29 June 1844.
- 1844 June 29, 1844  
Auction: To be sold at Auction on Tuesday, the 23rd of July at 11 o'clock AM on the premises. All the rights, title and interest which Samuel Whitehorne, late of Newport, dec., had on the 18th day of March, 1843, in and to a certain brick dwelling house and lot of land, situated on Tbames and Denison Streets, being the late residence of tbe deceased. The lot measures 69 1/2' on Thames, 234' on Denison.  
R.P. Lee  
This ad appeared again on 6 July and 20 July 1844.
- f. Samuel Whitehorne Household - Fourth United States Census of Newport, August 7, 1820:
- 1 - free white male under 10 years age - S. Whitehorne Jr., 4 years of age, (son died 1840)
  - 1 - free white male of 26 and under 45 years age



- including heads of families - (S. Whitehorne, age 41)
- 2 - free white females under 10 years age - (Harriet, age 7, Ellen Maria, age 2)
- 3 - free white females of 10 and under 16 years age - (Eliza Ann Whitehorne, age 16, Caroline, age 14, Mary Rathbone, age 10)
- 1 - free white female of 16 and under 25 years age including head of family - (unknown)
- 1 - free white female of 26 and under 45 years age including head of family - (Elizabeth Rathbone Whitehorne, age 42)
- 1 - person engaged in commerce - (Samuel Whitehorne)
- 1 - free colored female of 14 and under 26 years age - (servant)

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

The house was built for Samuel Whitehorne, a prosperous Newport merchant, who, often in partnership with his brother John, engaged in a variety of business undertakings, including a distillery, a merchant ship, an iron foundry and machine shop, and a bank. The Whitehorne brothers, nevertheless, went bankrupt in 1843, and the house was sold at auction in 1844, by which time Samuel Whitehorne had died.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:  
Deeds, tax assessments, and newspaper references at Newport City Hall and the Newport Historical Society.  
Detailed restoration studies by the Newport Restoration Foundation, Richard R. Long, architect, are now in progress.
2. Secondary and published sources:  
Downing, Antoinette F., and Scully, Vincent J. Jr., The Architectural Heritage of Newport, Rhode Island, New York: Clarkson N. Potter, second edition, 1967, pp. 9, 108, 112, 113, 333.
3. Likely sources not yet investigated:  
Samuel Whitehorne family papers, now in the possession of Lt. Gen. (ret.) William Ennis, a direct descendant.

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PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a fine example of the large merchants' houses built in the 18th and early 19th centuries on Thames Street facing the owners' commercial properties on the waterfront wharfs.
2. Condition of fabric: The structure is undergoing restoration.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: 46 feet by 46 feet; square plan; 5 bays; 3 stories.
2. Foundations: Fieldstone foundations are dressed with ashlar and faced with brownstone in places.
3. Wall construction: The common bond brick walls are full three bricks thick for full height. A slight projection to the brownstone water table is the only variation on an otherwise smooth wall surface without belt courses, etc.
4. Structural system: The exterior walls are masonry; the interior walls are stud framed. Morticed and tenoned wood frame roof structure of rafters and plates, beams, and joists are framed into the square framed base of the cupola.
5. Chimneys: Four brick chimneys are built in side walls.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways: The entrance doorway has sidelights and a transom light with side fluting. This is spanned by a semi-elliptical fanlight with an accented keystone. The doorway or window on the second floor has a semi-circular toplight as does the rear door and window which were originally located under the stair landing.
  - b. Windows: The remaining double hung windows with six light sashes are probably original. There are no shutters. A circular window is centered in the third floor facade. This is to be replaced with mullions, conforming to old photographs. All window openings have brick arches with brownstone keystones.
7. Roof: The low pitched hip roof, with new asphalt shingles, has boxed eaves with a modillion cornice. A handsome cupola with bracketed eaves and rounded, arched triple windows was added in the mid 19th century

8. Porches, stoops, and bulkheads: The brownstone stoop, with its changes in supporting elements, indicates some alterations. Evidence for the original porch, probably semi-circular, is being analyzed for restoration.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The central hall plan with the four principal rooms on the first and second floors also includes an unusual narrow room across the rear southeast corner on all three floors. There are six rooms on the third floor. The room arrangement is as follows: the kitchen at southeast on the main floor, the dining room with archway and closets probably at the southwest. The opposite side of the hall has a parlor at the front, the northwest corner, and a second parlor, office or bedroom with a large closet on the northeast corner. Judging from evidence in the floor, a smaller room was probably partitioned off from this northeast corner room. This partition was later removed, to enlarge the room. The fireplace was then relocated to the center of the north wall, blocking the east window. To compensate for this loss of light, the single window centered in the east wall was replaced by two flanking windows.
2. Stairways: The stairway was moved to its present location at the center of the house. Restoration studies indicate that the stairway was originally positioned at the east end of the hall, U-shaped in plan, and partly made of elements received or surviving in the house. There is a winding back stairway off southeast rooms. The stairway between the north rooms is probably not original.
3. Flooring: Heavy, wood flooring with edges ground and keyed together is used throughout.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The plaster ceilings and walls are finished with a variety of light sealed moldings. A light molded chair rail is present in some rooms.
5. Doorways and doors: First floor doors are six panel with flat panels and light sealed moldings. The original doors to the front rooms were closed in the mid 19th century, but the graining was retained. The second floor doors are four panel.
6. Special decorative features: The windows have interior panelled shutters in panelled reveals. The interior archway of the front door was probably originally repeated

in an archway at the center of the central hall. This is to be restored.

7. Hardware: The house is devoid of such material at present due to restoration.
8. Lighting: The house is devoid of such material at present due to restoration.
9. Heating: The house is devoid of such material at present due to restoration.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces west on a corner lot in a thickly built-up section.
2. Historic landscape design: Originally a formal garden extended from the rear.
3. Outbuildings: Later workshops and garages were attached at the southeast corner.
4. Walks: None

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

Newport HABS project -- 1970. Sponsored in cooperation with the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Antoinette F. Downing, chairman. In cooperation with the Newport Restoration Foundation, the present owners, and its architect, Richard R. Long. Under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS, and Osmund Overby, (University of Missouri), Project Supervisor, Cervin Robinson, photographer.